



AF / EFW

REPLY BRIEF	Application #	10/034,110
	Confirmation #	1032
	Filing Date	12/26/2001
	First Inventor	Davis
	Art Unit	2835
	Examiner	Y. Chang
	Docket #	450.232US2 (P08320US01/RFH)

Commissioner for Patents
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S I R:

1. THE NECESSITY FOR THIS REPLY BRIEF

In the Response to the Argument Section of the Supplemental Examiner's Answer (which is the same as that of the original Examiner's Answer), the Examiner has expanded on the positions set forth in the Final Rejection. This Reply Brief is needed to respond to the further comments made by the Examiner.

2. THE REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 AND 34

As the Examiner correctly points out, appellant has argued that the Behl patent does not mention "a circuit board accepting a plurality of components, including a first component, as is recited in independent claims 1 and 34." The Examiner argues the recitation "'for at least one board' is a statement of intended use or purpose of the invention" (emphasis in the original). The Examiner also argues that "the claim language suitable for accepting a plurality of components' may not mean the plurality of components being on the board" (emphasis in the original).

It is clear from the Brief on Appeal that appellants intend that the circuit board be part of the claimed subject matter and it is believed that, upon review of the prosecution history, a court would not permit appellants to argue otherwise.

Part of the disagreement here appears to be a product of the claim language used and while appellants believe that the claim language currently used is appropriate, appellants are willing to amend the claims to eliminate any ambiguity in this regard.

Specifically, appellants formally offer to amend claims 1 and 34 to recite that the at least one board "has mounted thereon" a plurality of components including a first component and that the first component "mounted on the at least one board" is enclosed with the isolation assembly. Copies of claims 1 and 34 as amended in this manner are attached as Exhibit A.

With these changes including the recitation of "the at least one board" in the body of the claim (and the elimination of the wording "suitable for accepting"), it is believed clear that the recitation "the at least one board" is "necessary to give life, meaning and vitality" to the claims (see Pitney Bowes, Inc. v. Hewlett Packard Co., 182 F.3d 1298, 1305 (Fed. Circ. 1999)).

Of course, the Examiner also argues in this section, that "a board, even a circuit board, is an inherent part of a disk drive." However, this is not seen to be the case and there is certainly no disclosure of this in Behl.

3. THE REJECTION OF DEPENDENT CLAIMS 3 AND 6

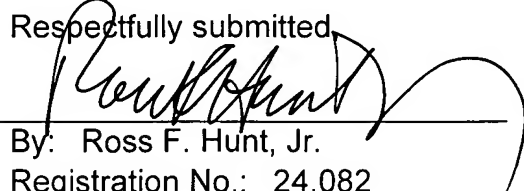
Regarding the expanded comments on the rejection of claim 3, the Examiner states that the "conduit" claimed "is shown as 12 in fig. 1"; however, element 12 is a power supply not a "conduit." Also, regarding claim 6, air is clearly drawn from outside the case in Behl, and it is respectfully submitted that the showing in Figure 1 to which the Examiner refers does not indicate otherwise.

4. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth in the main Brief on Appeal, and those set forth above, the rejection of the claims should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

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EXHIBIT A

PROPOSED AMENDED CLAIMS 1 AND 34

1. (Currently Amended) A cooling assembly for at least one board, the at least one board ~~suitable for accepting~~having mounted thereon a plurality of components including a first component, the cooling assembly comprising:

a passage;

a first fan suitable for passing air through the passage;

an isolation assembly for generally enclosing heat generated from the first

component, wherein the first component mounted on the at least one board is enclosed within the isolation assembly, the isolation assembly in communication with the passage, wherein the isolation assembly is removably attachable to a computer case without opening the computer case, and wherein the passage is separate from another heat-sensitive component within the computer case;

an alternate passage configured to provide an air flow path to the isolation assembly; and

a second fan suitable for passing air through the alternate passage.

34. (Currently Amended) A cooling assembly for at least one board, the at least one board ~~suitable for accepting~~having mounted thereon a plurality of components including a first component, the cooling assembly comprising:

a passage;

a first fan suitable for passing air through the passage;

an isolation assembly for generally enclosing heat generated from the first

component, wherein the first component mounted on the at least one board is enclosed within the isolation assembly, the isolation assembly in communication with the passage, and wherein the passage is separate from another heat-sensitive component within a computer case;

an alternate passage configured to provide an air flow path to the isolation assembly; and

a second fan suitable for passing air through the alternate passage.